

In the claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of improving myocardial function following myocardial ischemia, promoting angiogenesis in a subject animal comprising administering to ~~the~~ a subject in need thereof an ~~angiogenic~~ amount of a hedgehog agonist effective to promote angiogenesis, thereby improving myocardial function following myocardial ischemia.

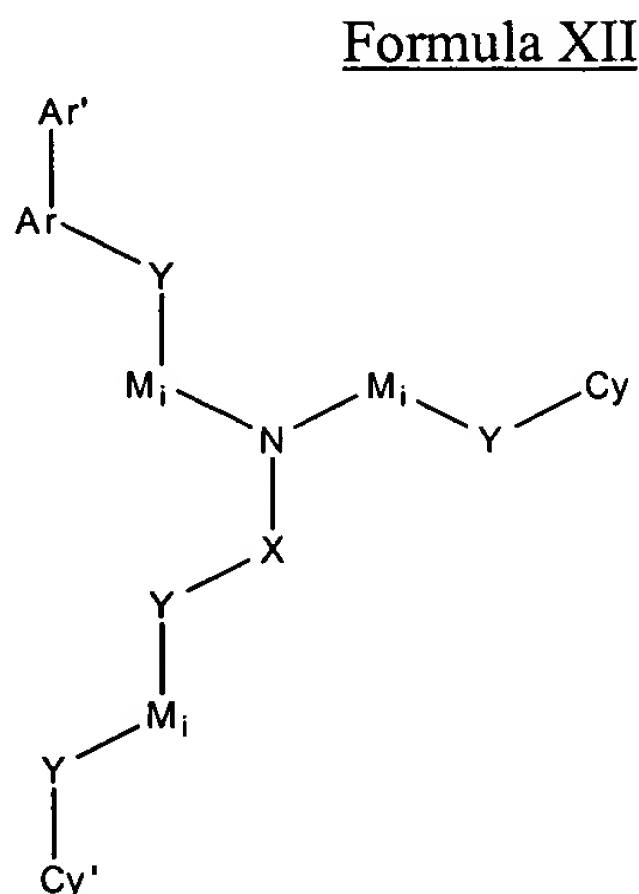
2. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of administering comprises contacting the hedgehog agonist with a mesenchymal cell of the subject.

3-24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the hedgehog agonist is a small organic molecule.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 25, wherein the hedgehog agonist has a molecular weight less than 2500 amu.

27. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25, wherein the hedgehog agonist is represented by general formula (XII):



wherein, as valence and stability permit,

Ar and Ar' independently represent substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl rings;

Y, independently for each occurrence, is absent or represent -N(R)-, -O-, -S-, or -Se-;

X is selected from -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -S(O₂)-, -S(O)-, -C(=NCN)-, -P(=O)(OR₂)-, and a methylene group optionally substituted with 1-2 groups such as lower alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups;

M represents, independently for each occurrence, a substituted or unsubstituted methylene group, or two M taken together represent substituted or unsubstituted ethene or ethyne;

R represents, independently for each occurrence, H or substituted or unsubstituted aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, alkynyl, alkenyl, or alkyl, or two R taken together may form a 4- to 8-membered ring;

Cy and Cy' independently represent substituted or unsubstituted aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, or cycloalkyl, including polycyclic groups;

i represents, independently for each occurrence, an integer from 0 to 5; and

n, individually for each occurrence, represents an integer from 0 to 10.

28-34. **(Cancelled)**

35. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25, wherein said small organic molecule agonizes hedgehog signal transduction via an interaction with any of *hedgehog*, *patched*, *gli*, or *smoothened*.

36. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 25, wherein said small organic molecule agonizes hedgehog signal transduction via an interaction with *smoothened*.

37. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 27, wherein said small organic molecule agonizes hedgehog signal transduction via an interaction with any of *hedgehog*, *patched*, *gli*, or *smoothened*.

38. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 27, wherein said small organic molecule agonizes hedgehog signal transduction via an interaction with *smoothened*.

39. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein administering the hedgehog agonist comprises direct injection to ischemic myocardium.

40. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein administering the hedgehog agonist comprises intrapericardial administration.

41. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the hedgehog agonist is administered by intracoronary catheter delivery.

42. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the hedgehog agonist is administered systemically.